(c) Yes, Sir; two cases are pending in the Supreme Court.

Setting up of Heavy Industries in North Bengal

3. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up some heavy Industries in North Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have so far been taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposals to set up any heavy industry in the central public sector in North Bengal.

Setting up of public sector units in North Bengal

4. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up at least two public sector units in the five districts of North Bengal which are backward districts; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for setting up public sector units in the five backward districts of North Bengal.

(b) Investment decisions of the Government are based mainly on techno-economic considerations, and are subject to the overall resource constraints.

Proposal to reduce time for canvassing in elections

5. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the time of canvassing for General Elections and Elections to State Assemblies so as to reduce the election expenditure;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Election Commission of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) There is at present no specific proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce the time of canvassing for General elections and elections to State Assemblies. However, in the context of reducing the election expenditure, the Joint Committee on amendments to Election Law recommended, on a specific proposal made by the Election Commission, that the interval under section 30 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 between the last date of final withdrawal of candidates and the date of poll should be reduced from 20 days to 17 days. The Election Commission also had, in the context of its proposal for the introduction of electronic voting machines for the conduct of parliamentary and assembly elections, highlighted the fact that as the introduction of electronic voting machines would help in reducing the work relating to printing of ballot papers the same would also facilitate the reduction of the period of campaigning.